

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 /013 W
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P 160830Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2770

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1472

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MY

SUBJ: AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN RUKUN TETANGGA

REF: A) STATE 061010 B) KUALA LUMPUR 1438

1. DEPARTMENT'S REFTTEL A CROSSED OUR REFTTEL B DESCRIBING
GENERAL PROBLEM OF POSSIBLE AMERICAN CITIZEN PARTICIPA-
TION IN RUKUN TETANGGA (RT).

2. WE BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE FOUND WAY OUT FOR USG EMPLOYEES
(INCLUDING PCVS). QUESTION IS WHETHER GOM WILL ACCEPT
OUR INTERPRETATION THAT ALL COME UNDER CATEGORY OF
"DIPLOMATIC EMPLOYEES" SPECIFIED AS BEING EXEMPT UNDER
LAW. WE HAVE LEFT NOTE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATING
THAT SUCH IS OUR INTERPRETATION AND PUTTING BURDEN OF
DISAGREEMENT ON GOM. WE HAVE NOT HAD REPLY, BUT WHEN
AMBASSADOR RAISED MATTER WITH FONMIN ACTING SYG
ZAKARIA HE CAUTIOUSLY AGREED OUR INTERPRETATION
REASONABLE.

3. MORE DIFFICULT IN QUESTION OF NON-OFFICIAL
AMERICANS, SEVERAL OF WHOM HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN
TO US. FOLLOWING INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION AT LOWER
LEVELS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR ALSO RAISED
PROBLEM WITH ZAKARIA WHO AGREED TO "LOOK
INTO IT." IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE TELLING PEOPLE
THAT IF APPROACHED THEY CANNOT UNDER MALAYSIAN LAW
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REFUSE TO REGISTER. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN

SEVERAL REGISTRATIONS, BUT NO ONE HAS ACTUALLY
BEEN PRESSED TO SERVE ON RT PATROL.

4. WE ARE MILDLY ENCOURAGED BY ARTICLE DATED
PENANG THAT APPEARED IN TODAY'S GOM-INFLUENCED
NEW STRAITS TIMES QUESTIONING WISDOM OF MAKING
IT COMPULSORY FOR ALIENS TO TAKE PART IN RT SCHEME.
COPY BEING POUCHED EA/IMS WITH COPY OF OUR NOTE
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

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